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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DOCKET NUMBER		ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF THIS APPLICATION:		PRIOR APPLICATION	
		CLASS	SUBCLASS	EXAMINER	ART UNIT
6683.13USC4		606	080000	D. WILLSE	3738

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV347850079US  
Date of Deposit: July AS, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: John Linkers JAMES LARKIN

CONTINUATION APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b) of Serial No. 09/369,614, filed on August 6, 1999 entitled SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD by the following inventor(s):

Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name KUSLICH	First Given Name STEPHEN	Second Given Name D.
Residence & Citizenship	City MAPLEWOOD	State or Foreign Country MINNESOTA	Country of Citizenship USA
Post Office Address	Post Office Address 2400 KELLER PARKWAY	City MAPLEWOOD	State & Zip Code/Country MINNESOTA 55119/USA
Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name KOHRS	First Given Name DOUGLAS	Second Given Name W.
Residence & Citizenship	City EDINA	State or Foreign Country MINNESOTA	Country of Citizenship USA
Post Office Address	Post Office Address 6517 SHERWOOD AVENUE	City EDINA	State & Zip Code/Country MINNESOTA 55435/USA

1.  Enclosed is a copy of the prior application; including the specification, claims, drawings, a signed oath or declaration, and any amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior application. (It is noted that no amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior application introduced new matter therein.) The continuing application is as follows: 28 pages of specification, 23 claims, 1 page of abstract, 19 sheets of drawings, and 3 pages of oath or declaration.
  
- The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

2.  Cancel original claims of this application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
3.  The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED

NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE	FEE
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS:</b> 23	3	x	\$18.00	<b>54.00</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT CLAIMS</b> 5	2	x	\$84.00	<b>168.00</b>
			<b>BASIC FILING FEE:</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>
			<b>TOTAL FILING FEE:</b>	<b>972.00</b>

- Small entity status is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.27.
4.  Payment of fees:  
 Attached is a check in the amount of  
 Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725.  
 **PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE IS BEING DEFERRED.**
5.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees as set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.16 to 1.18 which may be required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-2725.
6.  Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:  
 "This application is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/369,614, filed August 6, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/902,746, filed July 29, 1997, now abandoned, which is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 08/752,818, filed November 21, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,947,971, which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/482,025, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,720,748, which is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 08/299,807, filed September 1, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,489,307, which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/015,863, filed February 10, 1993, now abandoned, which applications are incorporated herein by reference."
7.  A set of formal drawings (19 sheets) is enclosed.
8.  Priority of application Serial No. , filed on in , is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119.  
 The certified copy has been filed in prior application Serial No. , filed .
9.  The prior application is assigned of record to Sulzer Spine-Tech Inc. located at Minneapolis, Minnesota.
10.  The Power of Attorney in the prior application is to:

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2215

11.  A preliminary amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.)
- Fee for excess claims is attached.
12.  A petition and fee has been filed to extend the term in the prior application until . A copy of the petition for extension of time in the prior application is attached.
13.  The inventor(s) in this application are less than those named in the prior application and it is requested that the following inventors identified above for the prior application be deleted:
14.  A Nonpublication Request under 37 CFR 1.213(a) is enclosed.
15.  Also Enclosed:
16.  Address all future communications to the **Attention of Nancy J. Parsons** (may only be completed by attorney or agent of record) at the address below.
17.  A return postcard is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300



Date: 7/25/03

Nancy Parsons  
Nancy J. Parsons  
Reg. No. 40,364  
NParsons:PSTpmc